

**REMARKS**

**I. General**

Claims 1-47 are pending, and all are rejected by the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005. No claims are amended by this response. The issues raised in the current Office Action are as follows:

- Claims 1-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US 5,9905,906 (hereinafter, *Goffinet*) in view of US 5,621,894 (hereinafter, *Menezes*).

Applicant hereby traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks contained herein.

**II. Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Goffinet* in view of *Menezes*. Applicant traverses the rejection.

To show obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify or combine the applied references. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the applied references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143. Without conceding any other criteria, Applicant respectfully asserts that the applied references fail to teach or suggest all elements of the claims, as discussed further below.

**A. Claim 1**

Independent claim 1 recites in part “said at least one device further includes relational context information stored locally thereto specifying the relation of said individual operational parameters of said at least one device to said aggregate of operational parameters.” The applied combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* fails to teach or suggest at least the above-recited feature of claim 1.

The current Office Action concedes that *Goffinet* fails to teach or suggest “relational context information stored locally thereto specifying the relation of said individual operational parameters of said at least one device to said aggregate of operational parameters. *See* page 3 of the Office Action. However, the Office Action asserts that *Menezes* teaches this feature of claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action cites the passages at the Abstract, column 6, lines 19-35, column 8, lines 48-67, and column 10, lines 28-54 of *Menezes* teaching this element. The Abstract of *Menezes* describes that facsimile (“fax”) machines exchange information regarding their capabilities. For instance, a first fax machine sends a list of its own processing capabilities to a second fax machine, which examines the list of capabilities, determines an efficient transmission format from the list of capabilities and formats a data file accordingly. *See* Abstract of *Menezes*. The second fax machine then sends the data file to the first fax machine in the determined format. *See id.* The cited passages from the Detailed Description of *Menezes* describe a capabilities cache (item 30 of FIGURE 2) that stores received capabilities lists.

However, *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 1 because the capabilities lists of *Menezes* do not include “relational context information specifying the relation of individual operational parameters … to an aggregate of operational parameters,” as claimed. A capabilities list in *Menezes* includes information sent from a transmitting fax machine regarding its own data processing capabilities. *See* Col. 5, lines 5-13 and 27-37 and Abstract. *Menezes* does not teach or suggest that the information in capabilities lists specifies a relation of individual operational parameters to an aggregate of operational parameters. Information from a fax machine listing its own data processing capabilities is not enough, without more, to teach or suggest “specifying the relation of individual operational parameters. In fact, *Menezes* does not mention or teach specifying a relation of individual operational parameters to aggregate operational parameters at all.

Accordingly, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

**B. Claim 14**

Independent claim 14 recites in part “means for mapping at least a portion of said operational specification information onto the received aggregate context information to generate relational context information specifying the relation of said individual operational parameters of said device to said aggregate of operational parameters available.” The applied combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 14.

The current Office Action concedes that *Goffinet* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature.” *See* page 4 of the Office Action. However, the Office Action asserts that *Menezes* teaches this feature of claim 14. It is respectfully asserted that *Menezes* does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 14. For instance, as discussed above with claim 1, *Menezes* does not teach or suggest that the information in capabilities lists specifies a relation of individual operational parameters to an aggregate of operational parameters. In fact, *Menezes* does not mention or teach specifying a relation at all.

Accordingly, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 14. Therefore, the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

**C. Claim 20**

Independent claim 20 recites in part “said first network device generating relational context information specifying a relation of said first network device’s operational parameters to operational parameters of other network devices communicatively coupled to said communication network.” The applied combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 20.

The current Office Action concedes that *Goffinet* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature. *See* page 5 of the Office Action. However, the Office Action asserts that *Menezes* teaches this feature of claim 20. It is respectfully asserted that *Menezes* does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 20. As discussed above with claim 1, *Menezes* does not teach or suggest that the information in capabilities lists specifies a relation of a network device’s operational parameters to operational parameters of another device. In fact, *Menezes* does not mention or teach specifying a relation at all.

Accordingly, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 20. Therefore, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn.

**D. Claim 31**

Independent claim 31 recites in part “relational context information specifying the relation of said individual operational parameters of said device to said aggregate of operational parameters.” The applied combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited element of claim 31.

The current Office Action concedes that *Goffinet* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature. *See* page 5 of the Office Action. However, the Office Action asserts that *Menezes* teaches this feature of claim 31. Applicant disagrees. As discussed above with claim 1, *Menezes* does not teach or suggest that the information in capabilities lists specifies a relation of a device’s operational parameters to an aggregate of operational parameters. In fact, *Menezes* does not mention or teach specifying a relation at all.

Accordingly, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 31. Therefore, the rejection of claim 31 should be withdrawn.

**E. Claim 37**

Independent claim 31 recites in part “information specifying the relation of said individual operational parameters of said device to said aggregate of operational parameters.” The applied combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 37.

The current Office Action concedes that *Goffinet* fails to teach or suggest the above-recited feature. *See* page 5 of the Office Action. However, the Office Action asserts that *Menezes* teaches this feature of claim 37. Applicant disagrees. As discussed above with claim 1, *Menezes* does not teach or suggest that the information in capabilities lists specifies a relation of a individual operational parameters to an aggregate of operational parameters. In fact, *Menezes* does not mention or teach specifying a relation at all.

Accordingly, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest the above-recited feature of claim 37. Therefore, the rejection of claim 37 should be withdrawn.

**F. Dependent Claims**

Dependent claims 2-13, 15-19, 21-30, 32-36, and 38-47 each depend either directly or indirectly from respective independent claims 1, 14, 20, 31, and 37 and, thus, inherit all of the limitations of their respective independent claims. Thus, the combination of *Goffinet* and *Menezes* does not teach or suggest all claim limitations of claims 2-13, 15-19, 21-30, 32-36, and 38-47. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-13, 15-19, 21-30, 32-36, and 38-47 are allowable at least because of their dependence from their respective base claims for the reasons discussed above.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above arguments, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10007421-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

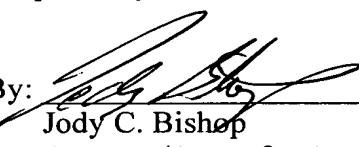
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Date of Deposit: January 5, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,

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